

2001 SPRING SELECT AREA FISHERY FACT SHEET - JANUARY 25, 2001

PURPOSE: *Consider commercial and sport fishing seasons for Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River.*

FISHERY OBJECTIVES:

- Maximize commercial harvest while providing quality sport fishing opportunity on local chinook.
- Minimize impacts on nonlocal spring chinook and steelhead.
- Target salmon and not sturgeon in Select Area fisheries in 2001.

BACKGROUND

Select Area Commercial Landings and Ex-Vessel Value

<u>Year</u>	<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Chinook</u>		<u>White Sturgeon</u>		<u>Ex-vessel Value</u>
		<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Number</u>	
1992	Youngs Bay	3,348	296	381	10	\$10,700
1993	Youngs Bay	12,780	851	974	32	\$39,700
1994	Youngs Bay	2,218	156	758	31	\$ 9,200
1995	Youngs Bay	2,891	201	2,799	110	\$17,400
1996	Youngs Bay	9,421	789	14,203	581	\$42,800
1997	Youngs Bay	24,338	1,820	8,827	351	\$71,800
1998	Youngs Bay	34,031	2,128	6,729	257	\$98,400
	Tongue Point	484	31	2,169	79	\$ 4,800
	Blind Slough	<u>702</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>\$ 2,600</u>
		35,217	2,219	9,386	355	\$105,800
1999	Youngs Bay	19,183	1,298	4,863	170	\$62,200
	Tongue Point	2,822	198	6,695	259	\$19,500
	Blind Slough	<u>5,962</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>2,448</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>\$21,000</u>
		27,967	1,954	14,006	523	\$102,700
2000	Youngs Bay	55,278	4,721	6,452	259	\$150,200
	Tongue Point	12,310	958	5,794	227	\$41,200
	Blind Slough	<u>11,110</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>1,543</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>\$30,600</u>
		78,698	6,497	13,789	530	\$222,000

- Highest ex-vessel value for combined areas in 2000 were generated by the highest chinook catch and second highest white sturgeon catch with high average price per pound values of \$2.51 for chinook and \$1.78 for white sturgeon.

Stock Composition of the Select Area Commercial Chinook Landings

Year	Fishery	Stock Component (%)				Snake River Wild Impact
		Local	Lower River	Upriver	Total	
1992	Youngs Bay	245 (83%)	44 (15%)	7 (2%)	296	1
1993	Youngs Bay	496 (58%)	343 (40%)	12 (<2%)	851	1
1994	Youngs Bay	128 (82%)	26 (17%)	2 (1%)	156	0
1995	Youngs Bay	187 (93%)	14 (7%)	0 (0%)	201	0
1996	Youngs Bay	705 (89%)	71 (9%)	13(<2%)	789	1
1997	Youngs Bay	1,612 (89%)	189 (10%)	19 (1%)	1,820	1
1998	Youngs Bay	1,920 (90%)	184 (9%)	24 (1%)	2,128	6
	Tongue Point	25 (80%)	3 (10%)	3 (10%)	31	1
	Blind Slough	<u>57 (95%)</u>	<u>3 (5%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>0</u>
		2,002 (90%)	190 (9%)	27 (1%)	2,197	7
1999	Youngs Bay	1,012 (78%)	270 (21%)	16 (1%)	1,298	1
	Tongue Point	167 (84%)	24 (12%)	7 (4%)	198	<1
	Blind Slough	<u>351 (77%)</u>	<u>105(23%)</u>	<u>2(<1%)</u>	<u>458</u>	<u><1</u>
		1,530 (78%)	399 (21%)	25 (1%)	1,954	2
2000	Youngs Bay	3,977 (84%)	703 (15%)	41 (1%)	4,271	3
	Tongue Point	812 (85%)	140 (15%)	6(<1%)	958	<1
	Blind Slough	<u>726 (89%)</u>	<u>92(11%)</u>	<u>0 (0%)</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>0</u>
		5,515 (85%)	935 (14%)	47 (<1%)	6,497	3

- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) determination and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, upriver spring chinook comprised at most 2% of the catch during 1992-2000. Only three Snake River wild (SRW) spring chinook were caught in 2000.
- Catches of upriver spring chinook were within guidelines and expectations of the biological opinions issued by NMFS each year.

Recreational Fishery

- Prior to 1998 spring chinook catches in Youngs Bay have been minor (less than 10 fish) and generated little interest. In 1998 clear water conditions and the largest return to date of spring chinook produced significant angler effort and catch of 55 chinook in April. Based on sampling 30% of the catch for VSI characteristics and CWT recoveries all fish caught were of local origin. In 1998 initial seasons were adopted in Tongue Point Basin and Blind Slough select areas. Poor returns in both areas resulted in little participation and no known catches.

- In 1999 spring chinook catches in all select areas were minor with only five fish estimated caught in Youngs Bay in April. Tongue Point and Blind Slough areas were expanded to include South Channel and Knappa Slough, however low angler effort resulted in no known catches.
- In 2000 with the largest return of spring chinook predicted to date, angler interest was high. In Youngs Bay only 14 chinook were caught. In Blind Slough and Knappa Slough a very successful fishery was initiated with an estimated 615 angler days resulting in 121 chinook with most caught before the commercial fishery opening on April 23. Angler effort decreased dramatically after April 23, however catch rate remained high with about one chinook for five anglers. In Big Creek and Gnat Creek anglers also experienced good success. Lacking a formal creel program in these tributaries, our best estimate is 50-70 chinook in each stream based on informal interviews and anecdotal information. In Tongue Point Basin and South Channel angler participation was low, similar to past years, with no catch documented.

FISHERY EXPECTATIONS IN 2001

Commercial Fishery Expectations

	Catch			White Sturgeon	Maximum Impacts	
	Chinook		Total		Upriver Chinook	Steelhead
	Local	Other				
Youngs Bay	6,100	1,000	7,100	300	70	30
Tongue Pt/South Ch.	2,200	400	2,600	300	20	10
Blind Sl/Knappa Sl.	1,500	200	1,700	100	20	10
Total	9,800	1,600	11,400	700	110	50

- Chinook catch is expected to be the largest ever for all areas including about 5,000 age 5 local chinook.
- Fewer than 110 upriver chinook including 12 Snake River wild and two upper Columbia wild fish are expected. Fewer than 130 Willamette wild spring chinook are expected.
- Steelhead impact is expected to be fewer than 50 fish, primarily a mix of hatchery fish; winter kelts and early summer runs.
- Local chinook catch in Youngs Bay includes about 300 Select Area Bright (SAB) fall chinook.

Sport Fishery Expectations

- Estimated sport catch of 300 spring chinook for all select areas with about 100 fish estimated for Youngs Bay and 200 fish for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough.
- Fewer than five nonlocal spring chinook are expected to be caught.

2001 SELECT AREA COMMERCIAL FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Youngs Bay

Winter Fishery

Noon Feb 21 (Wed)	- 6 PM Feb 23 (Fri)	2 days
Noon Feb 28 (Wed)	- 6 PM Mar 2 (Fri)	2 days
Noon Mar 7 (Wed)	- 6 PM Mar 9 (Fri)	<u>2 days</u>
		6 days

Spring Fishery

Noon Apr 18 (Wed)	- 6 PM Apr 20 (Fri)	2 days
Noon Apr 25 (Wed)	- 6 PM Apr 27 (Fri)	2 days
Noon May 1 (Tue)	- 6 PM May 4 (Fri)	3 days
Noon May 7 (Mon)	- 6 PM May 11 (Fri)	4 days
Noon May 14 (Mon)	- 6 PM May 18 (Fri)	4 days
Noon May 21 (Mon)	- 6 PM May 25 (Fri)	4 days
Noon May 28 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jun 1 (Fri)	4 days
Noon Jun 4 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jun 8 (Fri)	4 days
Noon Jun 11 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jun 14 (Thu)	<u>3 days</u>
		30 days

Summer Fishery

Noon Jun 18 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jun 20 (Wed)	2 days
Noon Jun 25 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jun 27 (Wed)	2 days
Noon Jul 2 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jul 3 (Tue)	1 day
Noon Jul 11 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jul 10 (Tue)	1 day
Noon Jul 18 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jul 17 (Tue)	1 day
Noon Jul 25 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jul 24 (Tue)	1 day
Noon Jul 30 (Mon)	- 6 PM Jul 31 (Tue)	<u>1 day</u>
		9 days

- The winter fishery will target the first arrivals of the age 5 component of the run prior to the time when significant interceptions of nonlocal chinook stocks occur. An estimated 3,600 age 5 local spring chinook are predicted to return to Youngs Bay.
- The spring fishery opening in late April with two, 2-day fishing periods followed by an increasing progression of fishing days through the season is designed to maximize the harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts on nonlocal stocks.
- The summer fishery during June 8 - July 31 is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on early returning SAB stock fall chinook and remaining local spring chinook. In 1999 the summer experimental fishery catch totaled 358 chinook (196 SAB and 162 spring chinook). In 2000 the catch totaled 168 chinook (117 SAB and 51 spring chinook).

Gear:

8-inch minimum mesh size restriction in effect during the winter fishery.

- Large, age 5 chinook will be targeted, while minimizing impact on smaller steelhead.

8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in effect during the spring and summer fisheries.

- Salmon to be targeted, not sturgeon.

Area: Open waters extend from the lower boundary, at the Highway 101 bridge, to the upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers. Waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 bridge at the mouth of the Lewis and Clark River are closed (same as 2000).

Allowable Sales: Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.

Other: Permanent rules regarding transport of commercially caught fish remain in effect (same as fall 2000).

- Since 1979, transportation of catch by fishers out of Youngs Bay during the main-stem closed season has been prohibited. Special transportation rules were in effect beginning in the 1995 fall season and removed during the 2000 fall season.

Tongue Point Basin/South Channel

Winter Fishery (Tongue Point only)

7 PM Feb 20	(Tue)	-	7 AM Feb 21	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM Feb 27	(Tue)	-	7 AM Feb 28	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM Mar 6	(Tue)	-	7 AM Mar 7	(Wed)	(1 night)
					<u>3 nights</u>

Spring Fishery (Tongue Pt./South Ch)

7 PM Apr 17	(Tue)	-	5 AM Apr 18	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM Apr 24	(Tue)	-	5 AM Apr 25	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 1	(Tue)	-	5 AM May 2	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 3	(Thu)	-	5 AM May 4	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM May 8	(Tue)	-	5 AM May 9	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 10	(Thu)	-	5 AM May 11	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM May 15	(Tue)	-	5 AM May 16	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 17	(Thu)	-	5 AM May 18	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM May 22	(Tue)	-	5 AM May 23	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 24	(Thu)	-	5 AM May 25	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM May 29	(Tue)	-	5 AM May 30	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM May 31	(Thu)	-	5 AM Jun 1	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM Jun 5	(Tue)	-	5 AM Jun 6	(Wed)	(1 night)
7 PM Jun 7	(Thu)	-	5 AM Jun 8	(Fri)	(1 night)
7 PM Jun 12	(Tue)	-	5 AM Jun 13	(Wed)	(1 night)
					<u>15 nights</u>

- Winter fishery to target early arrivals of age 5 chinook.
- Spring season openings during Blind Slough/Knapka Slough closed periods will maximize fishing opportunity.

- Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.

Area: **Tongue Point Basin** is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from the red light at Tongue Point to the flashing green light at Tongue Point to the flashing green light at the rock jetty on the northwesterly tip of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the south end of Mott Island easterly to a marker on the northwest bank on Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island due westerly to a marker on the opposite bank.

South Channel is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green buoy "7" thence to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to flashing red marker "10". All open waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

Gear: An 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction is recommended during the winter fishery to target large age 5 chinook while minimizing handle of smaller steelhead.
An 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended during the spring fishery to target salmon not sturgeon.
Legal gear restricted to a maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed 2 pounds on any one fathom within Tongue Point Basin.

In South Channel, nets are restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restrictions on the leadline. Fishers participating in the Tongue Point Basin fishery may have stored on board their boats, gill nets with leadline in excess of 2 pounds per fathom.

Allowable Sales: **Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.**

Other: **Permanent rules regarding transport of commercially caught fish remain in effect (same as fall 2000).**

- Special permits were required beginning in the 1996 fall season through the 1999 spring season.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough

Winter Fishery

7 PM Feb 19 (Mon) - 7 AM Feb 20 (Tue)	1 night	Blind Slough only
7 PM Feb 26 (Mon) - 7 AM Feb 27 (Tue)	1 night	Blind Slough only
7 PM Mar 5 (Mon) - 7 AM Mar 6 (Tue)	<u>1 night</u> 3 nights	Blind Slough only

Spring Fishery

7 PM Apr 2 (Mon)	- 7 AM Apr 3 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Slough only
7 PM Apr 9 (Mon)	- 7 AM Apr 10 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Slough only
7 PM Apr 16 (Mon)	- 7 AM Apr 17 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Apr 23 (Mon)	- 7 AM Apr 24 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Apr 30 (Mon)	- 7 AM May 1 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 2 (Wed)	- 7 AM May 3 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 7 (Mon)	- 7 AM May 8 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 9 (Wed)	- 7 AM May 10 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 14 (Mon)	- 7 AM May 15 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 16 (Wed)	- 7 AM May 17 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 21 (Mon)	- 7 AM May 22 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 23 (Wed)	- 7 AM May 24 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 28 (Mon)	- 7 AM May 29 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM May 30 (Wed)	- 7 AM May 31 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Jun 4 (Mon)	- 7 AM Jun 5 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Jun 6 (Wed)	- 7 AM Jun 7 (Thu)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Jun 11 (Mon)	- 7 AM Jun 12 (Tue)	(1 night)	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
7 PM Jun 13 (Wed)	- 7 AM Jun 14 (Thu)	<u>(1 night)</u>	Blind Sl. and Knappa Sl.
18 nights			

- Winter fishery to target early arrivals of age 5 chinook.
- Special openings April 2-3 and April 9-10 in Blind Slough to maximize fishing opportunity.
- Open fishing periods when Tongue Point Basin/South Channel is closed will maximize fishing opportunity.
- Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.

Area:

Open waters of Blind Slough extend from markers at the mouth of Gnat Creek located approximately ½ mile upstream of the county road bridge downstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough. Concurrent waters extend downstream of the railroad bridge. State waters extend upstream of the railroad bridge and require an Oregon license.

Knappa Slough is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from the northerly most marker at the mouth of Blind Slough westerly to a marker on Karlson Island downstream to a north-south line defined by a marker on the eastern end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.

Gear:

An 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction is recommended during the winter fishery to target large age 5 chinook while minimizing handle of smaller steelhead.

An 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended during the spring fishery to target salmon not sturgeon.

Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.

Allowable Sales:

Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.

Other:

Permanent rules regarding transport of commercially caught fish remain in effect (same as fall 2000).

- Special permits were required beginning in the 1996 fall season through the 1999 spring season.

Deep River

No commercial season is recommended based on poor return expectation. Test fishing will be conducted for research purposes and to monitor the return.

2001 SELECT AREA SPORT FISHERY

Permanent Oregon angling regulations for waters within the select areas of Youngs Bay, Tongue Point Basin and South Channel, and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough are listed in the 2001 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet and are open to chinook salmon and adipose clipped coho the entire year.

Permanent Washington sport fishing rules list waters of Deep River open to chinook salmon and adipose clipped coho the entire year.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
January 25, 2001